

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 ACDA-19

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2651

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TECH IAEA RO US

SUBJECT: UNDP NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY PROJECT IN ROMANIA

REF: A. STATE 50533; B. IAEA VIENNA 2167 C. IAEA VIENNA 2232

1. SUMMARY: AGENCY AND ROMANIANS CONTINUE STRONG INTEREST IN US PARTICIPATION SUB- GROUPS ONE AND TWO OF SUBJECT PROJECT. GOR INCLINED TO AWAIT DEFINITE US RESPONSE BEFORE DECIDING ON SUB- CONTRACTOR FOR THESE GROUPS. AGENCY AND GOR CONSIDERING SENDING JOINT MISSION AT LEAST TO US AND FRG TO NEGOTIATE PARTICIPATION IN THESE SUB- GROUPS IF ANY US FIRMS INTERESTED IN BIDDING. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT/ AEC ADVISE GE AND WESTINGHOUSE OF CONTINUED INTEREST IN THEIR TENDERING BIDS FOR THESE SUB- GROUPS AS PACKAGES, AND OF AGENCY- GOR INTEREST IN SENDING MISSION TO US TO DISCUSS THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FRIDAY, MARCH 30, AMB PORTER AND MISOFFS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH IONESCU, ROMANIAN STATE COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY, AND ROTIVAL (US), UNDP RESREP IN ROMANIA DURING WHICH QUESTION OF SUB- CONTRACTING FOR SUBJECT PROJECT AROSE. BOTH WERE IN VIENNA TO PARTICIPATE IN GOR- UNDP- IAEA REVIEW OF BIDS RECEIVED TO DATE FOR SUBCONTRACTS ON PROJECT.

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3. IONESCU STRONGLY REITERATED TO POERTER DESIRES EXPRESSED REF B TO HAVE US FIRMS SUBMIT BIDS AND PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT SUB- GROUPS ONE AND TWO DETAILED IN INVITATIONS TO BID.

COMMENT: IN SPITE OF CONFUSED SITUATION EARLIER WITH REGARD TO SELECTION OF PROJECT MANAGER, IT IS MISSION IMPRESSION THAT IONESCU THIS TIME IS INDICATING SERIOUS SCNE INTEREST WHICH IT WOULD BE TO US ADVANTAGE TO MEET IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. END COMMENT.

4. IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH ROTIVAL, LATTER REPORTED THAT BIDS FOR SUB- CONTRACTS IN ONE OR MORE AREAS RECEIVED FROM MOST DEVELOPED WE COUNTRIES AND CANADA. ONLY EE COUNTRY TO BID WAS CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND ROTIVAL UNDER IMPRESSION THAT GOR DISPOSED TO GIVE THEM AT LEAST TOKEN PARTICIPATION. WITH EXCEP- TION OF FRENCH AND, TO SOME EXTENT, ITALIAN BIDS, MOST BIDS INVOLVED PROVISION OF ALL OR VERY SUBSTANTIAL PART OF SERVICES IN ONE OR MORE OF SEVEN SUB- GROUPS. GOR WOULD PREFER TO GIVE SINGLE BIDDER OR COUNTRY PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY IN ONE OR MORE SUB- GROUPS, RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO SELECT EXPERTS AND FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENTS PIECEMEAL, AND BIDS WERE DISCUSSED IN THIS LIGHT. NO FIRM DECISIONS TAKEN AT THIS TIME, BUT ROTIVAL EXPECTS FIRM DECISIONS FROM BUCHAREST ON AT LEAST SUB- GROUPS 3-7 WITHIN NEXT TWO- THREE WEEKS.

5. ONLY ACROSS- THE- BOARD EXPRESSIONOF INTEREST INCLUDING SUB- GROUPS ONE AND TWO CAME FROM FRG, AND FRG TENDERED OFFER TO NEGOTIATE PARTICIPATION THESE TWO SUB- GROUPS RATHER THAN FIRM BID TO HANDLE THEM. ROTIVAL CONFIRMED IONESCU STATEMENT TO PORTER THAT THESE WERE AREAS IN WHICH GOR INTERESTED IN US PARTICI- PATION, AND STATED THAT IT WAS GENERAL SENSE OF DISCUSSION DUR- ING MEETING THAT GOR WOULD PREFER TO WAIT BEYOND SELECTION OF OTHER SUB- CONTRACTORS FOR UNSPECIFIED PERIOD UNTIL EITHER BID OR FIRM REFUSAL TO BID RECEIVE FROM US FIRM OR FIRMS.

6. AGENCY AND GOR NOW CONSIDERING SENDING JOINT MISSION TO FRG, US AND ANY OTHER COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN THESE TWO GROUPS TO DISCUSS PARTICIPATION. CAIRO, TA AREA OFFICER FOR EUROPE, ADVISES US THAT MISSION WILL PROBABLY CONSIST OF HIMSELF AND ONE OR MORE ROMANIANS, AND HAS INQUIRED WHETHER VERY SHORT LEAD TIME, ABOUT TWO WEEKS, WOULD CAUSE PROBLEM FOR US. MISSION HAS ADVISED HIM TO LET US KNOW AS SOON AS SCHEDULE FIRM, AND HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUGGESTED STOP FIRST IN WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH AEC

BEFORE PROCEEDING TO GE AND/ OR WESTINGHOUSE TO DISCUSS PROJECT WITH THEM. IN ADDITION, CAIRO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT GOR MIGHT BE WILLING CONSIDER LICENSING ARRANGEMENT.

7. CAIRO SENT LETTER ON MARCH 26 DIRECTLY TO BOWLES OF GE, PER REF A(COPY POUCHED TO AMMONS, AEC) TO SURTHUR EXPLORE GE INTEREST. MISSION WOULD SUGGEST THAT GE BE ADVISED OF PROBABILITY THAT AGENCY- GOR MISSION WILL VISIT US FOR DIRECT DISCUSSION. FURTHER, AEC MIGHT CONFIRM TO GE THAT AGENCY AND GOR INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING BIDS ON SUB- GROUPS ONE AND TWO AS PACKAGES, RATHER THAN IN BIDS FOR INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS AND EXPERTS IN PROJECT DOCUMENT ON PIECEMEAL BASIS, AND MENTIONED POSSIBILITY LICENSING ARRANGEMENT MIGHT BE ADVISED OF MISSION VISIT, AND OF LICENSING POSSIBILITY, AS WELL.

8. REQUEST ADVICE SOONEST AS TO WESTINGHOUSE INTEREST IN BIDDING, INDICATION OF HOW AND HOW SOON GE WILL RESPOND TO CAIRO LETTER, AND INDICATION OF ACCEPTABILITY OF AGENCY- GOR MISSION VISIT TO AEC AND POSSIBLE SUB- CONTRACTORS IN CONNECTION IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT. PORTER

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